

Children's Defense Fund

Children in the District of Columbia



January 2011

114,036 children live in the District of Columbia:

- 441 are American Indian/Alaska Native
- 3,467 are Asian/Pacific Islander
- 3,600 are two or more races
- 13,960 are Hispanic
- 23,330 are White, non-Hispanic
- 74,129 are Black

In the District of Columbia:

- A child is abused or neglected every 3 hours.
- A child dies before his or her first birthday every 3 days.
- A child or teen is killed by gunfire every 2 weeks.

The District of Columbia Ranks:*

3rd among states in per pupil expenditures.

Best state is New Jersey; worst state is Utah

50th among states in percent of babies born at low birthweight.

Best state is Alaska; worst state is Mississippi

51st among states in its infant mortality rate.

Best state is Washington; worst is the District of Columbia

[*1st represents the best state for children and 51st represents the worst state for children in the country]

Child Poverty in the District of Columbia

Number of poor children (and percent poor)	33,133 (29.4%)
Number of children living in extreme poverty (and percent in extreme poverty)	21,192 (18.8%)
Number of adults and children receiving cash assistance from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	12,721
Maximum monthly TANF cash assistance for a family of three	\$407

Child Health in the District of Columbia

Number of children without health insurance (and percent uninsured)	9,000 (7.3%)
Number of children enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)*	9,260**
CHIP eligibility: 300 percent of federal poverty (\$66,150 for a family of four)	
Number of children enrolled in Medicaid	74,693**
Medicaid and CHIP participation rate	95.4%
Children as a percent of total Medicaid enrollment	45.9%
Medicaid expenditures on children as a percent of total Medicaid expenditures	19.6%
Percent of two-year-olds not fully immunized	25%

*States may have a different name for CHIP

**The number of enrolled children throughout the year rather than on a given day

Child Hunger in the District of Columbia

Number of children who receive food stamps	35,532
Percent of eligible persons who receive food stamps	78%
Number of children in the School Lunch Program (free and reduced price only)	31,827
Number of children in the Summer Food Service Program	44,077
Number of women and children receiving WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children)	16,421

Early Childhood Development in the District of Columbia

Percent of children under age 6 with all parents in the labor force	71.2%
Number of children served by Head Start	4,306
Number of children served by the Child Care Development Fund/CCDBG	1,500
Average annual cost of child care for a four-year-old in a center	\$10,660
Percent of 3-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	n/a
Percent of 4-year-olds enrolled in state pre-k, Head Start, or special education programs	n/a

Education in the District of Columbia

Annual expenditure per prisoner	n/a
Annual expenditure per public school pupil	\$13,752
Percent of public school fourth graders: unable to read at grade level	83%
unable to do math at grade level	83%
Percent of public school eighth graders: unable to read at grade level	86%
unable to do math at grade level	89%
Number of high school students who drop out of school annually	2,841

Child Welfare in the District of Columbia

Number of children who are victims of abuse and neglect	3,407
Number of children in foster care	2,111
Number of children adopted from foster care	103
Number of grandparents raising grandchildren	5,693

Youth at Risk in the District of Columbia

Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds not enrolled in school who are not high school graduates	7.4%
Averaged freshman high school graduation rate	56%
Percent of 16- to 19-year-olds unemployed	49.1%
Number of juvenile arrests	768
Number of children and teens in juvenile residential facilities	288
Ratio of cost per prisoner to cost per public school pupil	n/a
Number of children and teens killed by firearms: 26 25 homicides; 0 suicides; 0 accidents; and 1 undetermined	

Compiled from the most up-to-date data available as of January 2011. For data sources, please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits

For more information on the state of America's children contact:

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